

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-05-04

04-11-05

HARD WHITE WHEAT CLASSIFICATION

1. PURPOSE

This program notice is issued to provide advance notice that on May 1, 2006, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will revise the classification of Hard White wheat kernels when found in samples of Hard Red Winter wheat and Hard Red Spring wheat.

2. BACKGROUND

GIPSA Program Notice 02-06, dated 6-28-02, communicated the policy for classifying Hard White wheat. The three primary points addressed in the notice were: 1) "All Hard White wheat varieties are considered Hard White wheat regardless of color," 2) "Upon request, a certification statement will indicate if the Hard White wheat sample is darker than the interpretive color line print developed for Hard White wheat," and 3) the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) will continue to consider only light-colored Hard White wheat kernels as contrasting classes and wheat of other classes in Hard Red Winter or Hard Red Spring samples."

On February 18, 2005, GIPSA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (pages 8233-8236) revising the United States Standards for Wheat, wherein effective May 1, 2006, Hard White wheat is no longer considered as a contrasting class in the classes Hard Red Winter wheat and Hard Red Spring wheat. In the final rule, GIPSA stated that "...Hard White wheat is not a contrasting class but is considered as wheat of other classes. The grade limit will remain unchanged. For kernel identification, Hard White wheat kernels would be determined by visual assessment and would include the dark colored amber white wheat kernels... In the case where samples challenge the normal visual inspection process the alkali test would be utilized..." GIPSA Program Notice 03-02, Alkali Test to Detect Hard White/Red Wheat Kernels, dated 6-1-03, provides the method used for validation purposes.

GIPSA has analyzed the effect of revising the policy from considering only light-colored Hard White wheat kernels as wheat of other classes, to counting all Hard White wheat kernels as wheat of other classes, regardless of seed coat color. GIPSA recognizes some individuals or companies may need to alter their business practices, but also recognizes that this policy will encourage the grain industry to keep the classes separate, within an acceptable tolerance, as they were intended. GIPSA further feels that giving the grain industry a one-year advance notice of the policy provides the industry adequate time to manage inventories and modify business practices as necessary.

3. CLASSIFICATION POLICY

Effective May 1, 2006, GIPSA will implement the following policy for classification of Hard White Wheat:

- 1) All Hard White wheat varieties are considered Hard White wheat regardless of color and regardless of whether they are in a predominantly Hard White wheat sample or a predominantly Hard Red wheat sample.
- 2) All Hard White wheat kernels will be counted as wheat of other classes in Hard Red Winter wheat and Hard Red Spring wheat.
- 3) Hard White wheat kernels are not contrasting classes in Hard Red Winter wheat and Hard Red Spring wheat.

The sodium hydroxide test, developed by the Agricultural Research Service, may be used for validation purposes, regardless of whether the sample is primarily hard red or primarily hard white.

4. CERTIFICATION

The grade limits for wheat of other classes are not affected. Further, Hard Red Winter wheat and Hard Red Spring wheat will continue to be counted as contrasting classes in Hard White wheat.

Upon request of the applicant for service, a certification statement will indicate if the Hard White wheat sample is lighter or darker than the interpretive color line print developed for Hard White wheat.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning Hard White wheat classification to Patrick McCluskey, Market Analysis and Standards Branch, Field Management Division, at (202) 720-4684, or email at: patrick.j.mccluskey@usda.gov.

/s/ David Orr

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